

Akron City

Akron

May-August 2009

News: Stimulating Akron's
Job Growth is Job #1

Neighborhoods: The Last of
the Old World Bakeries

Feature Story: Specialized Training
Helps Akron Police Work Safely
and Efficiently

Akron's
MVP



Akron Happenings

Upcoming events
for everyone!

Lock 3 EVENTS! **LOCK 3** AKRON

Beginning May 22

Rock the Lock Fridays, 7:00pm Tribute Bands—**FREE**

June 19

First Day of Summer Weekend

Celebrate with the Gypsies in the Palace

July is a Month of Festivals



Thursday, July 2-4

Rib White and Blue

Northeast Ohio's biggest 4th of July holiday party featuring everybody's favorite summer foods, sounds, and family-friendly activities including fireworks on the Akron Innerbelt, Saturday, 9:45pm. Admission is \$5 (Free before 1pm) for Fri. & Sat. Free on Thurs. Children under 48" tall are always free at Lock 3 events.

Friday, July 10-12

The Italian-American Festival

on S. Main St. and inside Lock 3. Pizza eating and home-made wine making and wine tasting events, Car show, Bocce and Morra tournaments—**FREE**. www.it-am.org

Saturday, July 18-19

The 4th Annual National Hamburger Festival Our favorite food, music, and contests. Lock 3. For more information, visit www.hamburgerfestival.com



Saturday, May 23



Neighbors Day

Call the 3-1-1 Center (330.375.2311 from any phone) to register your event and ask for an information packet.

www.neighborsdayakron.org

The University of Akron

May 23

University Park Alliance Neighbors Day

Aug. 15

University Park Art Fair

For more information, see www.upakron.com

July 24-Aug. 15

Heinz Poll Summer Dance Festival

Interactive children's programs by the University of Akron Dance Institute. Children's programs begin at 7:45pm Performances begin at 8:45pm each night.

www.akrondancefestival.org

Summer Reading Program June 8– Aug. 1

Free! Spend your summer vacation with us.

Contact your local library or bookmobile service for more information.

www.akronlibrary.org



July 23-26

Arts Expo & Taste of Akron

Juried exhibitors, arts & crafts, live entertainment. Taste of Akron features wine tasting & silent auction, plus great food!—**FREE** www.akronperforms.com



Saturday, July 25

All-American Soap Box Derby

Local champions from Soap Box Derby races throughout the world come to Akron to compete for scholarships and merchandise prizes. www.aasbd.org

Aug. 4-9

Bridgestone World Golf Championship

at Firestone Country Club features the best golf has to offer. Visit www.worldgolfchampionships.com for details.



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330-375-2116
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Tell us what you think by replying to editor@ci.akron.oh.us

Or share your thoughts with the mayor at mayor@ci.akron.oh.us

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On Our Cover



Our Cover: Bruce Ford's picture of LeBron James on Main Street, after giving away 300 bicycles to needy children. "LeBron's State Farm King for Kids Bikeathon" will be on Saturday, August 22 in 2009.

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE WESTERN RESERVE

Were You a Boys and Girls Clubs Kid?

Akron—Boys and Girls Clubs of the Western Reserve (formerly BGC of Summit/Portage Counties) is preparing to celebrate its 25th anniversary, and is tracking down former Club kids to invite them to the big homecoming. If you were ever a BGC member, please give the Club a call at 330-773-3375 or visit www.wrkids.org and click the BGC Alumni link on the home page.

City Releases New Official City of Akron Seal



Akron—Mayor Plusquellic used his State of the City speech in February as the occasion to release the artwork for the City of Akron's new official seal, that will be used on all publications and printing. The old seal, containing the words "City of Invention" will continue to be used until printed

material on which it appears is depleted. The new seal commemorates the city's 2008 All-America City Award. It was designed by Akron artist Nick Betro, Vice President of Hitchcock Fleming and Associates.

CLARIFICATION

In the last issue of *City* magazine, it was stated that the founder of Keep Akron Beautiful was Judith Bear Isroff. More correctly stated, Judy was KAB's first executive director. In 1980, under then-mayor Roy Ray, Vincent Lobello, a loaned executive from Xerox, conceived a program to address litter reduction, clean-up, and beautification and named it "Keep Akron Beautiful." Judy Isroff volunteered her time to help the city, and Mayor Ray and Lobello assigned her to raise funds for KAB. Twenty-nine years later, KAB continues to make a difference in the city's appearance, and Lobello continues to be the longest-serving volunteer member of the Keep Akron Beautiful Board of Directors.



Chrissy Milano and Tony Ninni

Ninni's and Crest Bakery The Last of Akron's Old-World Bakeries

By Robert Sberna

Akron—Akron institutions for many decades, Ninni's Bakery and Crest Bakery are both facing the challenges of competition from grocery chains and changing eating habits. But Tony Ninni and Crest's Scott Bailey aren't planning to hang up their aprons anytime soon.

After more than 65 years of serving danishes, doughnuts, cookies, and specialty cakes, Crest's customer base is not what it used to be. But Bailey, who purchased Crest in 1992 with a partner, said he has devoted regulars. "They like the hometown feeling of our coffee shop and our fresh-baked products," he said. Located on North Main St., Crest features 20 different danishes and its signature cake, which Bailey described as "chocolate on top of chocolate on top of chocolate."

Ninni's Bakery traces its history to the 1920s when it was founded in New York by Tony Ninni's great-grandfather. The business relocated to Akron in the 1940s and is now situated on Tallmadge Ave.

Each day, Tony Ninni creates cannoli, amaretto cookies, tortes, pineapple cream cakes and cassata cakes using his great-grandfather's recipes. "Everything is made fresh," said Ninni, who hopes to eventually



Crest's Scott Bailey

turn the bakery over to his son Aric. "I have a base of loyal customers, but now I need to get younger customers to come here," he said. "If I can do that, Ninni's is going to be around for years to come."

Mother's Day

Mayor and City Council President Honor Their Moms

When Mayor Don Plusquellic was just four years old, his mother's uncle said about him: "Someday that boy is going to be a celebrity."

When Betty Channel looks back at the years when she was raising four children, she remembers Don (her first-born child and only son) as a boy "who had a mind of his own, but always followed the rules."

Recalling his mom as a strict disciplinarian, the Mayor credits her as the reason he never tells a lie. "I tried that once with her," he says, "and I never forgot the punishment I got for not telling the truth."

Betty also can't remember a time when Don "didn't have a ball in his hands."

Widowed in 1972 when her husband David died after a short illness, Betty was a working single mother — she worked in the cash office at JC Penney at Wooster-Hawkins — and raised Don and his three sisters, Betty, Karen and Denise.

Today Betty, 82, lives with her husband Mel in the same house where the Plusquellic family first moved in 1958.

Jewel Sommerville, 78, didn't know which path in life her little boy Marco would follow — but she knew he would somehow be dealing with people.

"He was always so caring for others," she said, "and from a young age, he was fascinated by the funeral parlor that my brother operated in Chicago."

When Jewel and Marco opened Sommerville Funeral Home in Akron in 1978, both mother and son had worked at Goodyear — Mrs. Sommerville for 18 years. As Marco's business partner, Jewel relied on the clerical skills she had learned at Goodyear and in the business office at Children's Hospital for 11 years before that.

Marco's only sister Carla died in 2007 after living with multiple sclerosis her whole life — always cared for at home by Jewel.

"I simply would not be where I am today without my mom," says Marco, who serves as Ward 3 Councilman as well as City Council President. "She has triumphed over much adversity to be the kind and nurturing person that people genuinely appreciate."



Akron Police are leaders

In its efforts to keep our city safe, the Akron Police Department incorporates an array of sophisticated gear and communications technology. However, police officers are increasingly finding that their specialized training is one of the most important tools they can use to protect the public — and themselves.

Ongoing training is a key focus of Akron's department, with officers at all levels completing classes in crisis intervention, incident control, ethics, crime mapping, scientific data collection, interview techniques, first aid, driving safety and many other aspects of law enforcement.

Akron Police Chief Craig Gilbride said he's a strong advocate of in-service training, noting, "Better trained police are better for the community."

Gilbride, a 31-year APD veteran, added that his department is "ahead of the curve" when it comes to law enforcement training. "We'll stack our training program up against any other program in the state," he said. "Our officers are very receptive to training and they are interested in furthering their knowledge. As an example, all of the members of our crime scene unit are now master evidence technicians. And a high percentage of our detectives have a master detective certification, which takes quite a bit of training."

For Akron police officers, advanced training begins in their rookie year. Gilbride noted that the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy mandates 14 weeks of instruction for new police officers. "But



we go to 27 weeks of training for our new officers," he said.

As police rise through the department ranks, training is stepped up, said Major Gus Hall, who serves as APD deputy chief. "We put a strong focus on leadership training," he added.

To reach the captain level, officers must have attended either the Certified Law Enforcement Executive program in Columbus or the FBI National Academy, a 10-week intensive program in Quantico, Virginia. At both of these programs, officers receive classroom and practical instruction that emphasizes leadership and management skills.

"The training becomes really important when we have a critical incident," said Hall, explaining that critical status could

"The critical incident training prepares us to collaborate with other safety services during a crisis."

— Major Gus Hall, APD Deputy Chief

include various scenarios, including a major disaster, a toxic spill, a barricaded person, or even a large gathering of people at a concert or other event.

"The critical incident training prepares

in specialized training

By Robert Sberna



Officer Dan Sampsell (left) and Sgt. Jeff Mullins using a firearms training simulator. The video simulator can be programmed to allow officers to experience a variety of situations and help them train for split-second decisions.

mander. "We've got a lot of things in place in case we need to respond quickly to a disaster or crowd situation," he noted.

While crediting the importance of personal protection equipment such as body armor, Hughes said specialized training helps police officers to work more efficiently and safely. "These days, we can control a crowd with 24 officers whereas it used to take 100 officers," he noted.

One area in which Akron police training has been very successful is its Crisis Intervention Training program, said Hughes. In 2000, APD became the first department in Ohio to start a CIT program, which teaches officers how to best respond to situations involving individuals who exhibit symptoms of mental illness. By taking a calm, understanding approach, CIT officers are often able to defuse a problem without the use of force. To date, about 180 officers have completed the 40-hour CIT course.

"The CIT program has greatly helped us to de-escalate situations," Hughes said. "Now, officers don't have to go hands-on as much with individuals." He added that Akron's program is now being emulated throughout Ohio. "Wherever I travel, I find that our department has a very high reputation for its level of training."

Gilbride said the APD's high level of training has smoothed his recent transition to chief. "My goal is to continue to have a good, honest department that serves the citizens well," he said. "When I have well-trained officers under me, that makes my job much easier."



Akron police in-service training includes sessions in the classroom and in the field.



Officer Sampsell programs the video simulator during a training exercise.

us to collaborate with other safety services during a crisis," Hall said. "We also are prepared to deal with community groups and interact with local businesses. The training gives us a broad scope."

A key component of critical incident management, which is a mandate of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is pre-planning for any potential crisis, said Lt. Jerry Hughes, training bureau com-

This is Akron



« **The Rubber City Roller Girls** premiered their skating season in the flat track roller derby league at the John S. Knight Center in April. To see their schedule of spring and summer bouts go to www.rubbercityrollergirls.com



« **Lock 3's Cabin Fever Art Fair** » brought art lovers in from the cold to see and buy the work of local artists. Akron's Chriskindl Market attracted 68,000 visitors this year, and ended on First Night. January events brought another 8,000 people to the Lock 3 Ice Rink.



» **The Hibernians St. Patrick's Day Parade** benefited from sunshine and warm temperatures as thousands lined Main Street, including kids who brought bags for candy gifts from parade participants. Akron police chief Craig Gilbride and University chief Paul Callahan helped lead the parade of dignitaries, bands, floats and marching units. The outdoor patios of downtown restaurants were packed with green-beer drinkers as well.



» Akron's Recreation Bureau hosted a free **Winter Carnival** for young children and their parents. Games, balloons, musicians and a magician entertained families inside Lock 3 on a cold winter day.



As seen through the lens of City photographer Bruce Ford, who has been capturing scenes of Akron for nearly 30 years.



◀ The new face of public housing in Akron is the 172-unit **Edgewood Village**, funded with a federal grant to AMHA and private investment totaling \$80 million. Designed with spacious floor plans, these 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom town homes and single-family homes neighbor the Akron Zoo, Helen Arnold Community Learning Center, and the Urban League.

▶▶ Completing **Akron's History Trails** program over the past year was the Meredith family of Ellet — Doug holds three-year-old Emma, Sean, Evan, and mom Robin (l-r) are joined by Ava Scrapics — who were honored at Lock 3's History Exhibit with all who completed 21 visits in the 2008 Neighborhood History Trails passport.



◀ **Metro's Intermodal Transit Center** opened with the new year, moving bus travelers from Main Street into the warmth of the transit center on Broadway, Akron's newest "green" building heated by solar panels and geothermal wells. It connects Akron transit users to Cleveland, Canton, Kent, and someday, to passenger rail. The site was selected because train tracks are adjacent to the downtown site.



What's the 3-1-1? | Citizens' Q & A with the Mayor



Mayor Don Plusquellic fields questions from concerned residents...

This past month, 112 people used the postcards in the January *City* magazine to ask me questions about policies, neighborhood nuisances and safety concerns. My staff and I answer each question.

Thanks to those who sent well-wishes to me and who have been

concerned that recent events may have distracted us from keeping the city moving forward. I assure you that we are all at work every day, focused on the issues you bring to us.

Several questions I received were in this vein:

Q. *Why do you travel?*

A. The last 58 mayors of Akron could do their jobs from behind their desks at City Hall. Then the world changed.

In 1991, I discovered that to get something done in Columbus, I had to be at the state capitol. The result was the creation of Joint Economic Development Districts in 1994 that now return about \$15 million each year to Akron, year-in-and-year out.

At this same time we realized that decisions were being made about a large number of our community's jobs, not in Akron — but in Tokyo, Japan; Hanover, Germany; and Auvergne, France.

I traveled to the world headquarters of Bridgestone, Continental A.G. and Michelin in an effort to retain the jobs we had and to attract new jobs.

It became clear to me that as states in the South — Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Georgia were stealing jobs from us by having an active presence around the world, if Akron was going to compete, we had to be where the decisions were being made.

Don't underestimate the aggressiveness of these other states — when the

Lieutenant Governor of a southern state arrives in Akron by chartered jet to call on a company with a branch in Tennessee, to steal 100 factory jobs from Akron — this is serious business.

In turn, for the last 15 years, we have been regular players at the world's largest manufacturing trade shows in Hanover and Dusseldorf, Germany, and more recently in Shanghai, China.

We do send people to represent us. But overseas, it makes a difference when a Mayor helps call on a company that's thinking of opening a U.S. branch. "Why not Akron?" I ask — we are at the center of the most sophisticated advanced manufacturing technology in the U.S.

Q. *How has it worked out for us?*

A. Well, we are the 73rd largest city in the U.S. — but a national magazine ranked us 12th, 13th, and 14th in the country for three consecutive years for the largest amount of European investment.

Because of our travel overseas, today in the Akron area there are 29 companies from Germany, France, the Netherlands, England, Italy, Korea, Japan, and Israel that have set up shop as a direct result of

our travel to these trade shows and these countries.

More importantly, these companies employ 2,205 people here — and this doesn't include Bridgestone's 1,100 employees or Sterling's 1,950 workers in Akron.

That's why I travel — to keep the jobs we have, and to get new jobs. Would any resident NOT have wanted me to go to Tokyo last year to ensure that Bridgestone would stay in Akron?

Q. *Who pays the costs when you travel overseas?*

A. Not Akron taxpayers. Years ago, I announced that all of our travel for economic development purposes would be paid from JEDD funds, not Akron taxes. That's because our travel benefits the entire region. Not every recruited business can find the right building or property for development within Akron, but if we can get that company to come to our area rather than North Carolina or Tennessee, our whole county benefits.

That's why we pay for all travel from the revenues we share with Fairlawn, Bath, Copley, Coventry, and Springfield townships — our JEDD partners.

Automated Sanitation Works for Everyone

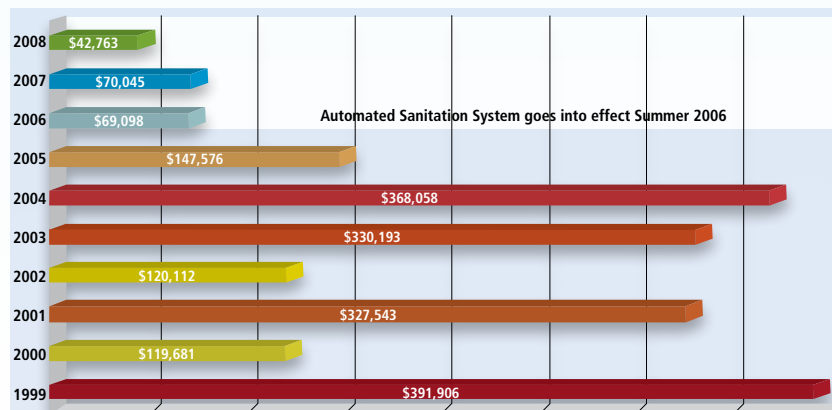
Sharon Connor of Goodyear Heights asked me recently how the new automated sanitation system we implemented two years ago was working out.

Q. *Did worker injuries change as much as you hoped?*

See the chart at right for the answer. > > > >

If you would like to ask the Mayor a question, send an e-mail to mayor@ci.akron.oh.us or write: **Editor, Akron City Magazine**
166 South High Street
Akron, OH 44308

SANITATION DIVISION WORKERS INJURY COSTS, 1999-2008.



Akron Works | Where the Jobs Are

ReXorce Thermionics

Creating energy and jobs from waste heat

By Tom Koch

ReXorce Thermionics, a high-tech company that is having success in converting waste heat into useful energy, may be the engine to help drive Akron's economy in the future.

ReXorce (pronounced "resource") could be the foundation for an entire new industry, says Michael LeHere, CEO of the Akron Global Business Accelerator, which housed the firm during its development stage.

LeHere describes ReXorce's technology as "absolutely amazing." He gets no argument from ReXorce CEO Michael Gurin.

"We harvest or capture heat from a wide range of sources including solar energy, geothermal, and industrial waste heat," explains Gurin. "We then convert it into something useful such as electricity or mechanical energy."

ReXorce has outgrown its home at the Business Accelerator, which is located in Canal Place at 526 South Main Street. The firm has moved its 20 employees across the street to the former Akron Area Board of Realtors facility.

Gurin says he has plans to add 5 to 10 additional



ReXorce Thermionics has outgrown its base at the Business Accelerator and recently moved to a new location. The high-tech firm has plans to add 5 to 10 additional employees.

employees, particularly qualified engineering candidates. The company is currently building a 250-kilowatt system that can be moved to demonstration sites to show off the new technology to potential customers.

The Business Accelerator, which was founded 26 years ago, won a national award in 2008 for its efforts in incubating high-tech companies.

We capture heat from a wide range of sources including solar energy, geothermal, and industrial waste heat

BioInnovation

Institute will spawn investment and jobs

By Bob Sberna

As chairman of the BioInnovation Institute, Bill Considine has lofty goals for the collaborative enterprise.

"By 2018, we want to be recognized as the leading biomaterial and medicine program in the world," he says, adding, "We'd like to be bringing in \$150 million in academic and clinical research money and an additional \$150 million in annual commercialization investments."

Along with attracting investment to the region, the Institute will spawn the growth of local biomedical companies, notes Considine, who is president & CEO of Akron Children's Hospital. In 10 years, he expects there will be nearly 60 new companies bringing 2400 new jobs to our community.

"We'll be attracting talent from around the country and the world," he says. "The kinds of people we're going to attract are Ph.D.'s in the areas of polymers and chemistry, biomedical engineers, people with a background in Pharm.D., and a variety of allied



Akron's new BioInnovation Institute is focused on world-leading biomedical engineering.

healthcare professionals."

Considine says the Institute's global reach will leverage awareness of Akron's positives. "We're a city of innovation and we have a wonderful quality of life. As that gets disseminated by our recruitments, it's going to help us grow."

By 2018, we want to be recognized as the leading biomaterial and medicine program in the world

United States Census 2010

Akron is preparing for U.S. Census 2010

Akron's Department of Planning and Urban Development is organizing now for the 2010 U.S. Census. The federal government counts the nation's population every 10 years. The totals determine our representation in government, as well as how federal funds are spent on roads, parks, housing, schools, and public safety.

Because an accurate count is crucial to Akron's future, the City has prepared documentation that will enable the Census Bureau to locate emergency shelters, transitional housing, and other places where people experiencing homelessness

are known to congregate. The Census Bureau will record this information for use in the upcoming population count.

Akron has also been able to document more than 1,200 new addresses that were not on the Census Bureau's official list. In addition, the City has submitted corrections of residential properties that have been demolished.

**An
accurate
count is
crucial to
Akron's
future!**



Federal Money Will “Stimulate” Local Economy

By Dave Lieberth

Mayor Don Plusquellic was at the forefront when President Obama sought advice from mayors around the country to craft guidelines as to how the federal government should funnel money to communities to create jobs quickly.

Congress approved the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that sets aside \$360 billion for shovel-ready projects at the local level, which will be administered through cities and states.

Akron's highest visibility project will be reconstruction of the 30-year-old All-America Bridge, which will also receive fencing that is now required in all new federal highway projects.

The Mayor made an early commitment to utilize additional funding that will enhance the new construction plans for both Goodyear and Bridgestone.

Akron is in line to receive a total of \$60 million in Stimulus funding from the federal government.

Akron's Police Department expects to receive almost \$1 million to keep officers on the street — a part of the highly successful COPS program that was restored by Congress this year. Akron will also apply for \$10 million in additional funding that will be awarded on a competitive basis to police departments.

Monies to fund social service programs are being coordinated by Akron Service Director Rick Merolla. He has convened 31 separate organizations — including small faith-based charities, hospitals, and established social

service organizations — that will encourage collaboration and will permit Akron to receive more money by consolidating projects that serve the community.

**Akron's highest
visibility project will
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the 30-year-old All-
America Bridge, which
will also receive fencing
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highway projects.**

John Brown**150th Anniversary of the Harpers Ferry Raid**

By Dave Lieberth

Every high school American History student knows the name of Akron's most famous resident (hint: It's not LeBron).

John Brown, who led the raid on Harpers Ferry, called Akron "home" during the decade preceding the onset of the Civil War. Historians identify John Brown's raid as a pivotal event in igniting the War Between the States.

Born in Connecticut, Brown didn't stay in one place for long. He was raised in Hudson, Ohio and operated a tannery in Kent (then known as Franklin Mills). In the 1840s, he went into the sheep and wool business with Col. Simon Perkins, the son of Akron's founder. At that time, Brown accepted the offer of Perkins to reside in the cottage that sits today on Diagonal Road at Copley Road. With his wife Mary and nine of their 20 children, Brown was an intermittent resident of Akron between 1843 and 1854.

Prior to his partnership with Perkins, Brown had gone bankrupt in the wool business. So his new business relationship with Akron's most prominent citizen was a step towards respectability, especially since three of Brown's sons "were but recently in the Akron jail."

By 1845, John Brown was one of the nation's most successful breeders of sheep and a respected authority on the cleaning and grading of wool, winning gold medals in New York and Boston for the Perkins-Brown partnership.

But Brown badly miscalculated the market and nearly bankrupted Perkins. By 1850, he was traveling up and down the East Coast and inland to the Great Lakes in an attempt to resolve mounting lawsuits.

Even during his business successes and failures, Brown was an activist against slavery. In 1847, he met Frederick Douglass for the first time and soon thereafter decided to establish a colony



John Brown during his Akron years, about 1846-47.

for his family and fugitive slaves at North Elba, New York.

As Brown traveled throughout the East, he was often in the company of fugitive slaves. But in 1851, Brown returned to Akron when Perkins personally requested that he resume management of his flock. In Akron, Brown continued his abolition activities, leading Mrs. Perkins to complain of the constant presence of smuggled Negroes in the neighborhood. "He was always concerning himself with Negroes, often having several hidden at once about his place," she noted.

For the most part, Akron's founding families — mostly New Englanders — favored the abolition of slavery, but few held Brown's extreme views on the eradication of this "peculiar institution."

In 1855, two of Brown's sons moved to the new state of Kansas, whose identity as a slave state or free state



John Brown's home in Akron.

hung in the balance while settlers determined its future. Brown became nationally notorious after the bloody raid at Osawatimie Creek, which was undertaken by him and his sons.

When Brown stopped in Akron in 1856 and "gave such a graphic account of his struggle in Kansas that a committee was appointed to help him raise money and weapons," the people of Akron gathered rifles, shotguns, knives, pistols, swords, powder, lead, and even a case of weapons stored in the county jail.

Harpers Ferry Raid

After leaving Akron for North Elba in 1855, Brown was continually on the move for his cause. Then on June 23, 1859, he returned to Akron with sons Oliver and Owen to visit younger son Jason who had settled down in the area. Jason would say that he could not bear to kill anything and was left out of the coming events at Harpers Ferry.

The raid that resounded around the world occurred on October 16, 1859. Brown was severely wounded by bayonets. Sons Oliver and Watson were killed. John Jr. and Owen escaped. On December 2, 1859, John Brown was hanged at Charlestown, West Virginia, and is buried at North Elba, NY.

In Akron, on the day of his execution, flags flew at half-mast. Church bells tolled, the courts adjourned, and stores

Continued on next page, Harpers

Floating Towpath, 120 years apart



Summit Lake in South Akron featured one of the most unique aspects of the Ohio & Erie Canal, the “floating towpath.” It allowed mules to pull canal boats from the north end to the south end of the lake. Mules

had to be trained not be skittish as their hooved legs sunk into the water as they walked across the lake.

When Summit Lake became the main source of Akron’s drinking water – about 1890 – boys could no

longer fish from the bridge!

Today, Akron is re-building the floating towpath across Summit Lake, which will connect the Towpath Trail through Akron’s downtown to Kenmore Boulevard.

Harpers

(continued from page 13)

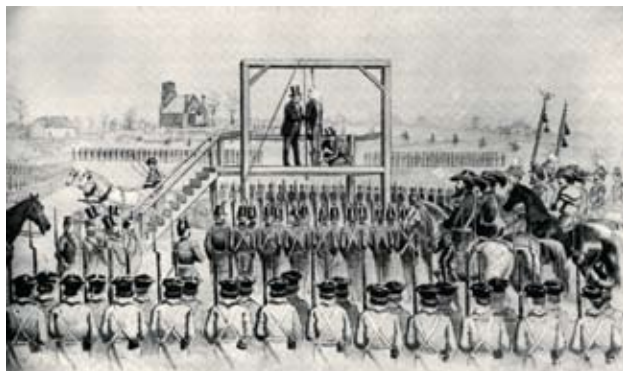
closed. That night, “a great indignation meeting” was held in Empire Hall, and speeches were made by Akron’s leading citizens.

A permanent monument to Brown was erected on the 76 acres along the high wooded ridge that had been donated by Col. George Tod Perkins, a Union Army veteran. The monument was created by the German-American Alliance of Akron in 1910 from a sandstone pillar that was part of Summit County’s first courthouse. The Tuscan column was saved when the courthouse was razed in 1905. In 1938, the monument was enlarged by the “Negro 25 year Club” to include a circular stone

seating area and plaza.

On May 9, 2000, the bicentennial of Brown’s birth, Mayor Plusquellic announced a special task force to determine the future of the Perkins Woods memorial and monument, a work that remains in progress with the collaboration of the Akron Zoo.

During this Sesquicentennial year of the Harpers Ferry Raid, special commemorations will be held at the memorial site and at the John Brown Home owned by the Summit County Historical Society, in cooperation with the Library and the Akron Art Museum as well.



“Our old friend and neighbor ...was the first martyr in the ‘irrepressible conflict’ of liberty and slavery. His blood has sanctified the gallows and made it a fit emblem of liberty”

—Gen. Lucius Bierce, December 2, 1859

John Brown: The Sesquicentennial of the Raid at Harpers Ferry

June 23 Commemoration of the 150th anniversary of John Brown’s return to Akron.

John Brown Home located at Diagonal and Copley Roads

Summer Guided visits to the John Brown Memorial

Akron Zoo

October 16 Opening of Exhibit of Jacob Lawrence prints

Akron Art Museum

October 17 Akron Symphony premiere, “The Passion of John Brown”

E.J. Thomas Hall

December 2 150th anniversary commemoration of John Brown’s Execution

1st Presbyterian Church, E. Market Street

Go to www.ci.akron.oh.us and click on the John Brown link.

Akron's New Police Chief



Public service is in the DNA of Akron's new Police Chief Craig Gilbride. He is a 31-year veteran of the force; his uncle was an Akron fire captain; and two of his sons have been Akron police officers. His brother Jack Gilbride is a retired officer from Akron's force. At 57, Gilbride has worked nearly every position within the APD, "except for traffic cop," says the new Chief, a notoriously hands-on, respected leader

who tries to take an hour every day to drive the city and keep up with what's going on and what the troops are doing.

Finance Dept. Award



For the 23rd consecutive year, the City of Akron Department of Finance has received honors from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The awards encourage and assist state and local governments to prepare budget documents of the highest quality. "What this award tells our citizens is that the people who manage the financial resources of their City are thorough, well

organized, and are planning for the City's future," said Akron's Finance Director **DIANE MILLER-DAWSON**.

Charles Salem Award



Akron's annual Charles Salem Humanitarian Award has been presented to City resident **GARY WYATT**. The award was given out at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration. An ordained minister, Gary is founder/president of the North Hill Community House and He Brought Us Out Ministries. He leads after-school tutoring, summer camps, mentoring, and provides school supplies. In addition, he oversees a

summer meals program and works to keep youth drug-free and violence-free. Gary works for the U.S. Postal Service.

Tom Long



One of the City's most visible employees retired at the end of 2008. **TOM LONG'S** work was integral to the success of the City. His contributions to the Cascade Locks Park, the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, Downtown, a number of urban renewal projects, and more have been lauded by many organizations that partner with the City, including the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition and Progress through Preserva-

tion. Mayor Don Plusquellic called Long's work "exceptional — for his care and consideration for the City, its functionality and use of resources."

Yvette Davidson



Akron's longtime Community Events Coordinator has also stepped down after a 42-year career in public service to the people of Akron. **YVETTE DAVIDSON** began as an accountant in the City's Department of Planning. In 1987, she created her new job in the Recreation Bureau and thrived in it. She was responsible for upwards of 350 annual City-sponsored events including the very popular Akron Arts Expo.

Tom Harris



TOM HARRIS retired from Akron's Building Maintenance Division after 30 years. Since 1999, he has been the City's Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor. In retirement, Tom plans to build a second home in West Virginia and spend more time playing guitar, a passion of his since childhood.

New Ward 8 Representative



Akron City Council selected **RAYMOND A. COX III** as the City's councilman from Ward 8. He replaces Bob Keith, who was selected to be the Clerk of Council, a full-time civil service position. The job of councilman is part-time. Cox is a professor and interim chair of the Department of Public Administration and Urban Studies at the University of Akron. An author and researcher, Dr. Cox has served as a legisla-

tive analyst in the Speaker's Office of the Massachusetts House of Representatives; as a director for the National Science Foundation; and as chief of staff to the lieutenant governor of New Mexico.

Employee Of The Month

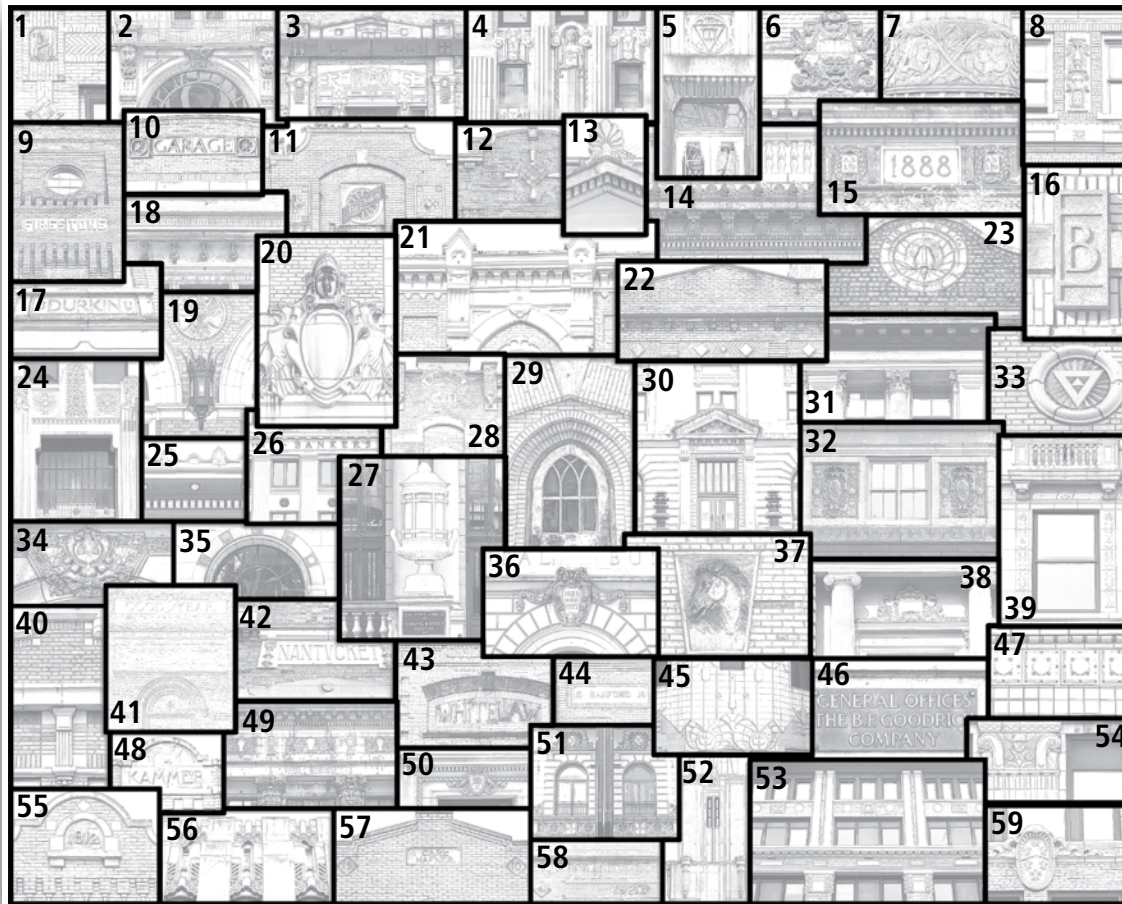
NOVEMBER, 2008



STEVE TURNER is a Treatment Plant Mechanic at the Water Pollution Control Station. He began his career with the City as a seasonal Utility Worker in 1988. He installs, maintains and designs wastewater equipment to ensure the plant process operates reliably and that the facility maintains compliance with Akron's EPA permit. Steve and wife Francine have two children, Kayshauna and Shamar. His joy in life is helping other people and working in his church. He also has a degree in theology.

What's Your Akron Architecture IQ?

A contest for readers of City Magazine



The 2009 City of Akron Recycling and Community Events Calendar features 59 different photos of Akron landmarks on the cover and on the December 2009 page, assembled by photographer Bruce Ford.

Using the key to the left, make a list from 1-59, and identify as many photos as you can.

Send your list to Editor, *City Magazine*, Room 200, 166 S. High St., Akron, 44308 or e-mail your list to editor@ci.akron.oh.us.

PRIZES: We will award a full color landmark poster to each person identifying at least 30 of the landmarks correctly.

From entries that identify all 59 correctly — or the most correct of those submitted, we will select a winner of a Grand Prize—use of a loge at Canal Park Stadium for an Akron Aeros game during the 2010 season (16 tickets) and a Made-in Akron gift basket.

The first five runners-up will receive a Made-in Akron gift basket.

Results will be published in the September, 2009 *City magazine*

DEADLINE: Friday, July 31.

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